



Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 05552.1442

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Ralf OTTO et al.

Serial No.: 09/551,581

Filed: April 18, 2000

For: CLOSURE APPLIANCE FOR
REAGENT CONTAINERS

Group Art Unit: 1852

Examiner: Patricia K. Bex

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2002
TC 1700

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated December 21, 2001, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I - claims 7-11 and Group II - claims 12-13. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 7-11 drawn to an appliance for opening and closing reagent container stoppers.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 11, 2002

By:

Elizabeth M. Burke
Elizabeth M. Burke
Reg. No. 38,758

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000